

Montana WIC

Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children



Montana WIC Program
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WIC – Building Healthy & Strong Families

November 1, 2012, 9am – 11am

Local Agency Conference Call

ATTENDEES:

State Office Staff: Joan, Leah, Carrie, Bernadette, Mark, Denise Higgins

Local Agencies: Riverstone – Gayle; Sheridan – Vicki; Silver Bow – Lori, Julia; Teton – Angel, Diane; Valley – Julie; Northern Cheyenne – Lisa; Blackfeet – Dorthy; Crow – Margo; CS&K – Barb; Ft. Belknap – Barbara, Carol; Gallatin – Darcy, Leslie; Hill – Trinity, Megan; Lake – Savanna, Emily, Bobette, Rhonda; Lewis and Clark – Mandy; Lincoln – Linda, Peggy; Missoula – Arwyn; Ravalli – Jackie, Teresa; Sanders – Sue; Broadwater – Ashlyn; Cascade – Lynn, Deb, Jo-Vivian; Custer – Vicky; Dawson – Connie, Pam; Deer Lodge – Linda, Joann, Heidi, Mary Ann; Fergus – Jane, Shirley

MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME

JOAN

Program Updates – WFSG met on October 23rd and discussed program quality and what measurable objectives they would like for WIC to follow and which will provide good data to measure. State staff is reviewing several of the suggestions and will look into how to gather the data for sharing with local agencies. More information will follow as the project progresses.

PARTICIPATION STUDY

As soon as the Chimes EA program is rolled out at the State a comparison and a survey of participants will be for taken comparing WIC/SNAP/TANF/Medicaid participants and asked why they are not participating in WIC, why they left the program early, what they like about the program. More information as it becomes available.

WIC participant survey will be coming your way. Post cards will be mailed the first part of December and need to be turned back in to the state office by the end of February.

OA FUNDING & RFP

Funds for caseload maintenance are all that will be available. Regional priorities for this year are caseload and EBT. The RFP for the EBT project should be ready to be posted by December 1st.

SPRING MEETING

The Family and Community Health Bureau spring meeting will be held April 16-18th at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Missoula. Tuesday will be a WIC training day but LA's are encouraged to attend the entire conference as the information received is relevant to local agencies.

DIABETES PREVENTION

DIANE

Diane Arave, Quality Improvement Specialist for the Montana Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes Prevention Program provided an overview of the importance of this program and how our participants should be referred to this program in any of the following instances: diagnosis of pre-diabetes, history of gestational diabetes, a baby weighing 9 pounds or more at birth. This is a 10-month program and requires commitment on the part of the participant. Two out of 10 women will develop gestational diabetes and 60% of those will develop Type 2 Diabetes within 10 years of their gestational diabetes. Program is free to Medicaid participants and there are 14 locations in Montana that have these classes to help people change habits and delay or avoid diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease. For more information about this program, please contact: Diane at 444-0593, darave2@mt.gov or visit: www.mtprevention.org for great information to share with our participants or anyone you know that may have these tendencies or issues.

NO KID HUNGRY

JESSI

Jessi Sheava provided general information relating to the Share our Strength (SOS) and No Kid Hungry programs and that WIC, CACFP and SNAP are the three programs that the State of Montana is focusing on in 2013 for outreach efforts to help end childhood hunger in Montana. A statewide community assessment is in progress to better understand what constraints there are in Montana communities that could be lessened or abolished.

Jessi's focus with NKH is the Shopping Matters project and she is willing to help any local agency that is interested in starting this program in their community. Missoula has a shopping matters program and did receive a mini-grant from NKH for startup expenses. The State of Colorado has a well-established shopping matters program with lots of great information and SOS has a free facilitator guide that is complete and ready to use. Jessi has lots of ideas and information to share with anyone who is interested. Please contact her at: 444-6936, or jsheava@mt.gov.

Jessi also provided the following links for you and your participants to use.

Shopping Matters for WIC Parents Introduction Video:

<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/playback/Playback.do?id=25ubhe>

Shopping Matters website:

<http://cookingmatters.centraldesktop.com>

LOCAL AGENCY MONITORING

BERNADETTE

At the fall training a change to the way local agencies are monitored was explained. Please be open to the review and understand that there may be more or fewer findings in your file review. We will be auditing more participant charts than previously but remember that there is a forgiveness factor added as well. Please feel free to call Joan with your concerns and we will schedule a conference call or an onsite visit to review the results with you. Encourage everyone to remain calm and remember that this is a pilot project and a work in progress. Thanks for your understanding and patience. [Tentative monitoring schedule for 2013](#).

PARTICIPANT MORTALITY & WIC SURVEY

LEAH

Asked for local agencies to share how they handle participants who have a miscarriage, infant dies or any other sensitive topic that all staff should be aware of when that participant is in the agency for an appointment. Jeanine and Gayle suggested using alerts on the file. Don't have to spell it out in case the participant can see your screen – use abbreviations – but that way it is the first thing the staff person sees upon clicking on the participant folder. Leah also suggested that alerts are a great way to communicate a lot of particular things relating to a participant and to utilize alerts as a great communication tool.

WIC participant survey. In a postcard form and has just 4 questions to answer. Participant can leave at the agency, return to agency, or mail directly to the state office. The postcard has prepaid postage so there is no cost to the participant. If they want confidentiality they can take it home and mail it in from their home. Leah

asked that your clinic number be added to the postcard in order to provide more valuable information for your clinic.

RETAILER MONITORING

GLADE

Stores in need of retail monitoring for FFY 2013 have been determined and Packets were sent to Local Agencies who have stores that need to be monitored. The packets included a set of educational buy benefits and a revised copy of the retail monitoring form. The deadline for completion is July 31st. Please call Glade at 444-2841 with any questions.

FARM DIRECT – AGREEMENT RENEWALS

CARRIE

The third year of Farm Direct has wrapped up and that means new agreements need to be signed and returned to the State office by January. There were 100 farmers whose agreements are up and 74 of those farmers were sent renewal packets. The 26 farmers who were not offered a renewal were inactive (no training completed or redemption). If they would like to continue with the Farm Direct Program they will need to contact Glade or myself. An updated list of authorized farmers will be published in early spring. If you would like a list of farmers in your agency area that were not offered renewal agreements, please contact Carrie. creynolds@mt.gov

WIC web page updates coming. Carrie is currently working on adding a link to a pre-screening tool from FNS for people interested in seeing if they could possibly qualify for WIC before they actually call the clinic for an appointment. The FNS tool is quick and easy to use, however, included in the information they need to provide for their appointment is proof of pregnancy. Montana does not require proof of pregnancy to be certified. Carrie wanted local agencies to have a heads up that this tool would be a part of the WIC website soon and that a clarification on the pregnancy proof would be added.

M-SPIRIT RELEASE

Mark stated that there have been two updates to MSPIRIT the last couple of months. One was a release and one was a fix. There continues to be issues at certain times with different errors popping up. Blair is continuing to test the program and anyone having any questions, please contact the Helpdesk for answers and any help that might be needed to get through something that isn't working correctly.

TIME STUDIES

These are due Monday, November 5th and e-mailed to blahr@mt.gov

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 3RD 2013 FROM 9AM TO 11AM